Fall is the most important time for lawn care in the Northwest. What you do now will greatly affect the health and vitality of your lawn next summer.

**Fall Feeding:**
At a minimum, you should feed your lawn with a good organic fertilizer. Use it in early September and again in late November. These two feedings will greatly enhance your turf’s root growth over the winter and the robustness of the blades above the ground.

**Renovation:**
Your lawn may not fully recover from summer dormancy, especially after a hot, dry summer. If this is the case, fall is an excellent time to renovate or overseed. To accomplish this, first rake through the dead areas vigorously to remove as much dead grass as possible. (Or use a thatcher.) Next, mow the lawn short (3/4” to 1”, but don’t scalp it). Spread your fertilizer, lime, and seed. (Sky carries several seed blends; consult a Sky associate to choose the best for your conditions.) Cover lightly with peat moss (or coir or screened compost). Keep the seed bed moist while the seeds are germinating. Start mowing when the grass gets 2 ½” – 3” tall.

**What you’ll need:**
- rake or thatcher
- spreader
- fertilizer
- lime
- seed
- peat moss

**Weed Prevention:**
To maintain a weed-free lawn, be sure to remove new weeds as they appear, before they can set seed. The softer soils of fall and winter should make this job easy and it will pay big dividends next spring and summer. If you have a big problem with *Poa annua* (crabgrass), apply a pre-emergent herbicide in mid October. This will keep any overwintering seed from germinating and lessen the problem next year. **Note: if you have overseeded, wait until you’ve mowed at least three times before using any herbicide.**

**Craneflies:**
Late September or early October is the best time to treat if you have been having issues. Doing so now will greatly reduce populations. See a Sky Nursery associate for recommendations.

**Mower Maintenance:**
Finally, don’t put your mower away without cleaning it and making an appointment to have it sharpened and tuned during the winter months when the mower shops are slow.

Consult a Sky Nursery associate for any other situations you may have.